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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

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1

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4

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Application Number

Filing Date

First Named Inventor

DEBORAH WATSON

Art Unit

Examiner Name

Attorney Docket Number

20022195.01

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US- 3,823,713	07/16/1974	Shah	
		US- 4,134,153	01/16/1979	Voorhees	
		US- 4,308,623	01/05/1982	Voorhees	
		US- 5,615,417	04/01/1997	Jackson	
		US- 5,689,831	11/25/1997	Harris	
		US- 4,616,643	11/14/1986	Jung	
		US- 4,660,229	04/28/1987	Harris	
		US- 5,718,001	02/17/1998	Wright	
		US- 5,749,099	05/12/1998	Voorhees	
		US- 6,195,806 B1	03/06/2001	Campbell	
		US- 6,237,157 B1	05/29/2001	Lobbins	
		US- 6,298,493 B1	10/09/2001	Ambroise	
		US-			
		US-			
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		US-			
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		US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		EP 0 047 270 B1	3/10/84	Osman		

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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	
				Filing Date	
				First Named Inventor	DEBORAH WATSON
				Art Unit	
				Examiner Name	
Sheet	2	of	4	Attorney Docket Number	20022195.01

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Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 120 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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U.S. Patent No. 4,308,623 discloses a fluid-tight ear protector 10 formed from a plastic tubing 11 having sealed opposite ends 18 and an intermediate portion between the ends having an elongated ear receiving opening 12 surrounded by a band of pressure sensitive adhesive 13 that is covered by a masking cover 14. Laterally opposite sides include lateral pleats 16 which permit the protective closure 11 to expand to accommodate the ear through the opening 12. A pull tape 15 is used to separate the mask 14 from the adhesive layer 13 and the outer ear is inserted through the opening 12. The adhesive adheres to the side of a head.

U.S. Patent No. 3,823,713 is directed to an aural dressing 11 comprising a strip 13 including a base 15 and a pair of end flaps 17. The base has a slot or opening 19 for receiving the ear. An adhesive layer 27 surrounds the opening 19 for attaching the dressing 11 to the patient's head surrounding the ear. Adhesive 33 is provided for preventing damage to sutures located behind the patient's ear after mastoid surgery. The flap 21 includes an adhesive 35 so that when the flaps 19 and 21 are folded over the base 15 to the position illustrated in Fig. 5, an adhesive layer 35 attaches to the overlapping second flap 23. The adhesive 37 is a double faced medical tape having one face attached to the first 21 and another face attached to the protective cover portion 39.

U.S. Patent No. 6,195,805 B1 discloses an ear protector 10 protecting the ears of a person during the application of heat to the person's hair and includes a pair of ear covers 12 and 14 mounted on the ends of a support yoke 16. Each cover is adapted for mounting against the upper end rear lobes and ear with the upper and rear lobes folded over away from the hair line of the person. Each ear cover includes an arcuate ear engager 32 and a soft face for engaging the upper and lower rear lobes of an ear with the soft material being foam rubber, for example, or heat resistant cushion material.

U.S. Patent No. 6,298,493 B1 discloses an ear protector 10 secured over the ear of the user and includes an outer covering 12 of cotton fiber which protects the ear from a hot curling iron 14. The protector 10 includes a covering 16 defining an inner chamber 18 and an opening 19 which is adjusted via an elastic band 20 which is allowed to stretch over the ear.

U.S. Patent No. 5,749,099 discloses a fluid type ear protector 10 which is similar to the first mentioned patent '623, however, it is not fabricated from a continuous tube.

U.S. Patent No. 4,134,153 discloses a throw away ear protector 10 having a single sheet or square plaque 11 of supple like film material having a central opening 12 which is received over the ear. Surrounding the opening 12 is a narrow band 13 of pressure sensitive adhesive normally covered by a mask 15 which can be removed when the device is to be applied. The ear is received in the opening and the adhesive 13 adheres to the side of a person's head, the balance of the sheet 11 is gathered and tied with a tie 22.

U.S. Patent No. 5,689,831 discloses a disposable ear cover 10 shaped to fit over a person's ear and is formed from a single sheet of polymeric plastic 20 having a flat edge 21 provided with front and rear ends 21 and 22 having adhesive 28 and 26, respectively, thereon for adhering to the side of the head and the back of the ear.

U.S. Patent No. 5,718,001 is somewhat similar to the construction of Patent No. '806 cited above and discloses a protective ear cover 10 for protecting ears from being burned by a curling iron and includes an inner liner 26 of sufficiently thick material to prevent the transmission of heat.

U.S. Patent No. 4,616,643 discloses an ear protector 10 formed from a stainless thermoplastic material configured like a cap or bag. The bag includes an aperture 12 which receives the ear and pressure sensitive tape 13 is disposed along the inside of the opening is covered by a detachable mask strip 14.

U.S. Patent No. 4,660,229 discloses a water tight ear enclosure 10 forming a water tight enclosure. A portion of the perimeter of the opening which receives the ear is secured to a flexible elastic strip having an adhesive surface for adhesively attaching a portion of the perimeter of the opening to the skin surrounding the ear.

U.S. Publication No. 2001/0029622 A1 discloses an ear covering which protects the ear against fluids entering the ear canal, chemical burns from hair treatment products, cuts from scissors or razors or burns from curling irons. The protective ear cover 7 receives an ear 1 via an elasticized opening 13. An adhesive is provided on the underside of a flap 16 to seal the ear covering against the skin.

U.S. Patent No. 6,237,157 B1 discloses an ear cover 12 for protecting the ears from burning without draw strings and is developed by sealing together TEFLON coated heat resistant fabric sealed with a fusible webbing which provides body and tightness to each unit.

U.S. Patent No. 5,615,417 discloses an ear protector 10 including a U-shaped retainer 20 which is received over the ear and an integral shield 30 coupled thereto via a hinge 32 for movement between the open position illustrated in Fig. 1 and a closed position illustrated in Fig. 2 covering the ear.